

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN NEWSLETTER UPDATE



**You are invited to
attend one of two public
presentations of the
General Management
Plan concepts at 2pm
or 7pm on Tuesday,
November 9th at the
Henderson County
Public Library.**

GMP News from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

The planning team is hard at work on the Carl Sandburg Home NHS General Management Plan. Our information gathering is going well because we have received valuable input from you. Thanks for your help so far.

We would like to share some of our ideas with you and ask for your comments and recommendations. This newsletter is a vehicle for discussing the possible approaches we could consider during the course of our planning.

The planning team has met several times over the summer to develop a range of potential concepts that we feel are responsible, feasible, and reflect a broad range of views. Management concepts at this planning stage are intended to encourage constructive discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

You are invited to attend one of two public presentations of the concepts at 2pm or 7pm on Tuesday, November 9th at the Henderson County Public Library. Each meeting will include a presentation of concepts, an opportunity for people to make formal statements, and a question and answer period with the planning team. Your thoughts about any aspect of these concepts are vital to the success of the planning process. Please note that your comments are not limited to these concepts alone. Feel free to suggest additional approaches.

Thanks again for your helpful ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you on November 9th.

Best regards,

Connie Hudson Backlund

Connie Hudson Backlund
Superintendent
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

For additional information on the General Management Plan
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Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A general management plan (GMP) provides a vision for the future of a park and a practical framework for decision making. It provides guidance to park managers on how to best protect park resources, how to provide for quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. It involves identifying goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzing existing conditions and future possibilities, and determining the best course of action to accomplish these goals. A GMP does not include site or facility designs, resolve all park issues, or guarantee funding for the park. Rather, GMPs describe the general path the National Park Service intends to follow in managing sites such as Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site over a 10 to 15 year period.

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

The planning team spent the past 10 months gathering information about park resources, park visitors, and the surrounding communities. Hundreds of helpful suggestions and ideas were received from park staff, friends of the park, technical experts, local and regional government representatives, park neighbors, and visitors. The planning team convened at the park several times over the summer to discuss this information and explore the relative advantages and disadvantages of each suggestion. As you can imagine, some of these good ideas about how the park might be managed in the future are mutually compatible and some are not.

By the end of summer, the planning team was ready to try and synthesize all the ideas and information gathered thus far into a few central concepts. The foremost goal of this synthesis process was to develop several management concepts that express the broad range of peoples different points of view while remaining faithful to the central mission of the park.

We would like to take this opportunity to share those concepts with you and ask for your comments and recommendations.

General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Projected Timetable		
Step	Date	Public Involvement
1. Gather Information	Winter - Summer 1999	Newsletter, response form, public open house meetings
2. Develop and evaluate alternatives	Summer - Fall 1999	Newsletter, response form, public review, public meetings
3. Prepare and publish draft GMP/EIS	Winter - Spring 2000	Newsletter, response form, public review, public meetings
4. Revise and publish final GMP/EIS	Summer 2000	Newsletter, public distribution of final plan

PARK MISSION

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is devoted to communicating the stories of Carl Sandburg — his works, life and significance as an American poet, writer, historian, biographer of Abraham Lincoln and social activist. The Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is also dedicated to preserving Connemara, the farm where Sandburg and his family lived for the last 22 years of his life.

It is important to remember as you review the three concepts described in this newsletter that the mission of the park is the foundation upon which they all are constructed. The purpose of each concept is to explore one unique approach to accomplishing that important mission.

Management concepts at this stage of the planning process are not intended to be perfect. They are, however, intended to express a wide range of possible management directions and encourage constructive discussion about the relative advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

The following paragraphs summarize many of the comments and suggestions we heard during the information gathering phase of our planning process.

Respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of preserving the historic integrity of the site in no worse condition than it exists today. However, there was a range of opinion as to the most appropriate preservation standard to which any single concept should aspire. General agreement seems to exist that any concept that resulted in degradation of the historic scene would be unacceptable.

The local community has traditionally used the trail system of the park for walking and, consequently, many comments about improving or expanding opportunities at the park for recreational use were received. There is well founded concern by most park staff and some members of the general public that if left uncontrolled, recreational use could damage the historic character of park. Nonetheless, there is a need to explore ideas about the "appropriate" types and levels of recreation experiences that should be available at the park.

A chronic parking shortage exists at the park. The core problem is that parking volume in the NPS controlled parking lot is not adequate to support both visitors who come to the park to tour the Sandburg Home and visitors who come primarily for a recreation experience. In addition, there are significant safety concerns about the practice of on-shoulder parking along Little River Road. A shared parking agreement has existed with the Flat Rock Playhouse for over 30 years which allows overflow parking during periods when performances are not given. That resource,

General Management Plan

however, has become less available for park visitors as a result of the expanded performance schedule at the Playhouse.

There are many interesting Sandburg artifacts and manuscripts currently in storage at the park. The public would like increased access to these resources and it appears that several options to make them available are possible. The main question seems to be determining the best way to increase access to these resources while maintaining acceptable levels of preservation and protection.

While the existing amphitheater has been in its current location for many years, it is still officially classified as a temporary structure. There have been suggestions by some staff and visitors that its proximity to the Sandburg residence may distract from the interpretive experience at the house, especially during periods when amphitheater performances are given. It is recognized by most people that the amphitheater is too important a resource for interpretive programs to be eliminated completely. Many people suggested finding a more suitable location for this facility.

The existing trailer comfort station near the Sandburg residence is also officially classified as a temporary structure. There is a need to permanently site and upgrade the facility to better meet visitor needs.

We received many ideas about expanding the scope of interpretive and educational opportunities. There was significant input from people who thought there was potential to tell a more encompassing Sandburg story beyond the boundaries of the park.

Hendersonville and Flat Rock have become popular retirement communities and continue to grow at a steady rate. This growth has affected the character of the surrounding area and caused it to become more suburban in nature. Park visitation is expected to increase. Increased impacts to park resources are anticipated. Proposed concepts should carefully consider potential impacts to park resources.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Some people live in an area where their local government tries to manage growth and development. One of the most common tools used for this purpose is a zoning ordinance. Local governments use zoning ordinances to ensure that appropriate types and densities of development occur in suitable locations and that incompatible uses are separated from each other. National Park Service (NPS) planners use management zones in parks for some of the same reasons.

Management zones in parks describe appropriate uses for a specific geographic area of a park based on what visitor experiences are desired and how to best care for the cultural and natural resources found there. The planning team developed five

management zones for use in the Carl Sandburg Home NHS GMP. A description of each management zone appears in the Management Zone Matrix on page 4 of this newsletter.

MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

The creation of management concepts is based on the broad range of ideas and recommendations received during the information gathering process and the need to manage and protect park resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Guided by the park's mission statement and significance, each concept applies its own unique focus and approach to managing the park.

The planning team developed three management concepts and used the management zones shown on page 4 as the basic tools to implement them. Different combinations of management zones attempt to support and enhance the unique focus of each concept. The concepts, titled *Connemara Lifestyle*, *Paths of Discovery*, and *Sandburg Center* are described in detail on pages 5 through 7 of this newsletter.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your continued participation in the planning process is critical to the success of this planning effort. We encourage you to review these concepts and forward any ideas, concerns, suggestions, or alternatives that might help us evaluate our ideas. Please note that your comments are not limited to these concepts alone. Feel free to suggest additional approaches if you would like. A postage-paid response form is included with this newsletter for your convenience.

You are invited to attend one of two public presentations of the concepts at 2pm or 7pm on Tuesday, November 9th at the Henderson County Public Library, 301 North Washington Street, Hendersonville NC. Each meeting will include a presentation of the concepts, an opportunity for people to make formal statements, and a question and answer period hosted by the planning team.

The planning team is scheduled to meet again formally in January 2000 to review all the comments and recommendations received during the planning process so far. At that time each individual concept will be reevaluated and adjustments made as necessary to reflect your input. A Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will then be prepared and presented to the public for additional input and guidance. The target date for a draft plan is March 2000.

The planning team will meet again in May 2000 to reconsider the concepts based on any additional input generated by the draft plan and, if appropriate, make adjustments and prepare a final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

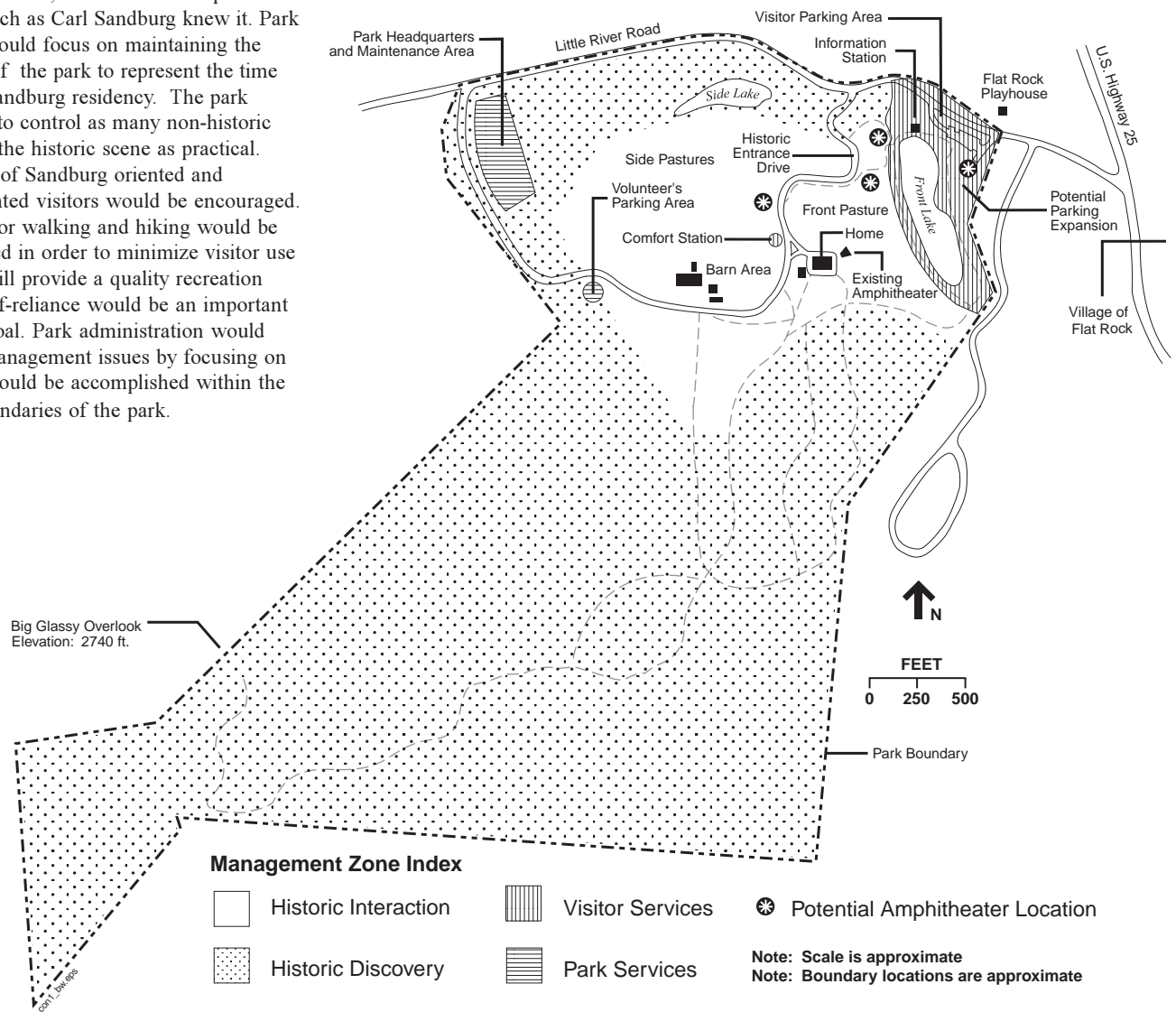
Management Zone Matrix

	Visitor Experience:	Resource Condition or Character:	Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities:
Visitor Services Zone	Visitors come to this zone to access the park and receive current information about facilities and program opportunities. Limited parking for cars and busses is provided. Visitors could expect frequent contact with other visitors in this zone.	Resources are modified to accommodate the needs of the visitor. Non-historic additions to the landscape are expected but such alterations would be sensitive to the cultural and historical context of the areas in which they occur. Minimizing visual impacts of any development in this zone to viewsheds of adjacent zones would be very important. Visitor facilities and services are intensively managed in this zone for resource protection and safety purposes.	Visitors access the park only through a Visitor Services Zone. Visitor support facilities such as visitor contact stations, parking areas, comfort stations, picnic areas, and recreational trails are some of the appropriate activities that could occur in this zone.
Park Services Zone	Visitors would not normally enter this zone. High traffic densities could be expected. The presence of park service maintenance activity and its associated noises and smells would be apparent.	Resources are modified for park operational needs and non-historic additions to the landscape are expected. Facilities are intensely managed for safety purposes. Impacts of activities in this zone on the surrounding cultural landscape would be mitigated by screening or other appropriate methods.	All activities associated with park operations would be appropriate in this zone so long as they had no permanent or persistent impact on the historic scene in adjacent zones.
Historic Discovery	Visitors to this zone would explore and discover unique park resources at their own pace. Interaction between the visitor and cultural and natural resources would be informal. There would be a low degree of structure and direction for visitor use and the presence of interpretive waysides would be minimal. The probability of encountering other visitors would be low to moderate and opportunities for solitude or a contemplative experience would be possible at times. In certain areas, visitors could expect to be more than a 30 minute walk from the nearest water fountain or comfort station. The probability of encountering park staff and other evidence of NPS management would be low. Visiting some areas in this zone could require a moderate to high level of physical exertion.	Only those modifications to cultural and historic resources required to ensure visitor safety or prevent resource degradation would be allowed. The visual impact of any site improvement to the cultural landscape in this zone would be minimal. Trail appearance would be harmonious with the surrounding landscape. Trail corridors would typically be less than 5' wide except on those necessary to provide emergency and park maintenance vehicle access. Trail-side site amenities like benches, trash receptacles, and water fountains are not found in this zone.	Historic structures would not be modified within this zone. Walking, hiking, and viewing cultural resources would be the primary activity in this zone. Trail use would be limited to foot traffic only. Trails in this zone would be limited to those documented as being used during the period of the Sandburg residency.
Historic Interaction	The emphasis of this zone would be on providing interactive opportunities for learning about Carl Sandburg's life and works. Intimate contact with cultural and historic resources would be possible for the visitor. Learning experiences could be self-guided or ranger-led. There would be a high degree of structure and direction for visitor use provided by interpretive programs and media. The probability of encountering other visitors would be high. The probability of encountering park staff and other evidence of NPS management would be high. Visiting most areas in this zone would require a low to moderate level of physical exertion.	The historic scene would be accurately represented, however, during periods of high visitation, the sights and sounds of people would be evident. Cultural resources would be preserved to represent the period of their significance. The interiors of some architectural resources could be modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, but they would not be changed in a way that adversely impacted the historic scene.	The interiors of some architectural resources could be modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, but they would not be changed in a way that adversely impacted the historic scene. Primary activities would include viewing cultural resources and attending interpretive programs.
Amphitheater Location	Visitors come to this zone to see Sandburg related interpretive programs and performances. Visitors could expect frequent contact with other visitors in this zone.	Resources are modified to accommodate the needs of the visitor. Non-historic additions to the landscape are expected but physical alterations would be sensitive to the cultural and historical context of the area in which it occurs. Mitigating visual impacts of any modification in this zone to viewsheds of adjacent zones would be very important. Buffering adjacent zones from impacts due to noise resulting from programs and performances would be very important. Visitor facilities and services are intensively managed for resource protection and safety purposes in this zone. Amphitheater should be located in close proximity to a comfort station.	Amphitheater programs could include park interpretive programs such as lectures, poetry readings, live theatrical performances, and musical performances.

Conceptual Idea 1

General Concept: Connemara lifestyle

In Conceptual Idea 1, visitors would experience Connemara much as Carl Sandburg knew it. Park management would focus on maintaining the historic scene of the park to represent the time period of the Sandburg residency. The park would attempt to control as many non-historic intrusions into the historic scene as practical. The separation of Sandburg oriented and recreation oriented visitors would be encouraged. Opportunities for walking and hiking would be closely regulated in order to minimize visitor use conflicts and still provide a quality recreation experience. Self-reliance would be an important management goal. Park administration would address park management issues by focusing on solutions that could be accomplished within the established boundaries of the park.



Details:

- Park would concentrate resources on maintaining the historic scene at a high level of integrity and interpreting the site to visitors interested in learning about Carl Sandburg. Only minor modifications to interiors of historic structures would be allowed so that historic artifacts could be displayed in an environmentally controlled setting. For example, significant modifications to the interior of an historic structure to install a climate control system would not be appropriate. Historic objects could, however, be displayed in free standing climate controlled display cases so long as permanent alteration of the structure did not occur.
- The number of on-site parking spaces would be increased by expanding the existing bus parking area to the southeast.
- The existing temporary amphitheater would be relocated to a site farther from the house than its current location. The design of the new amphitheater facility would be similar in style and scale to the existing facility. Electricity would be provided, but high tech accessories such as a sound and lighting system would not.
- The existing temporary trailer restroom facility would be replaced by a sensitively designed permanent facility near the current location. The new facility would make as little impression on the historic scene as possible.
- A boundary expansion would be requested to better manage and protect the summit of Big Glassy Overlook and adjoining areas.
- The impacts of recreation use could be controlled by imposing use restrictions on visitors.
- One public access point.

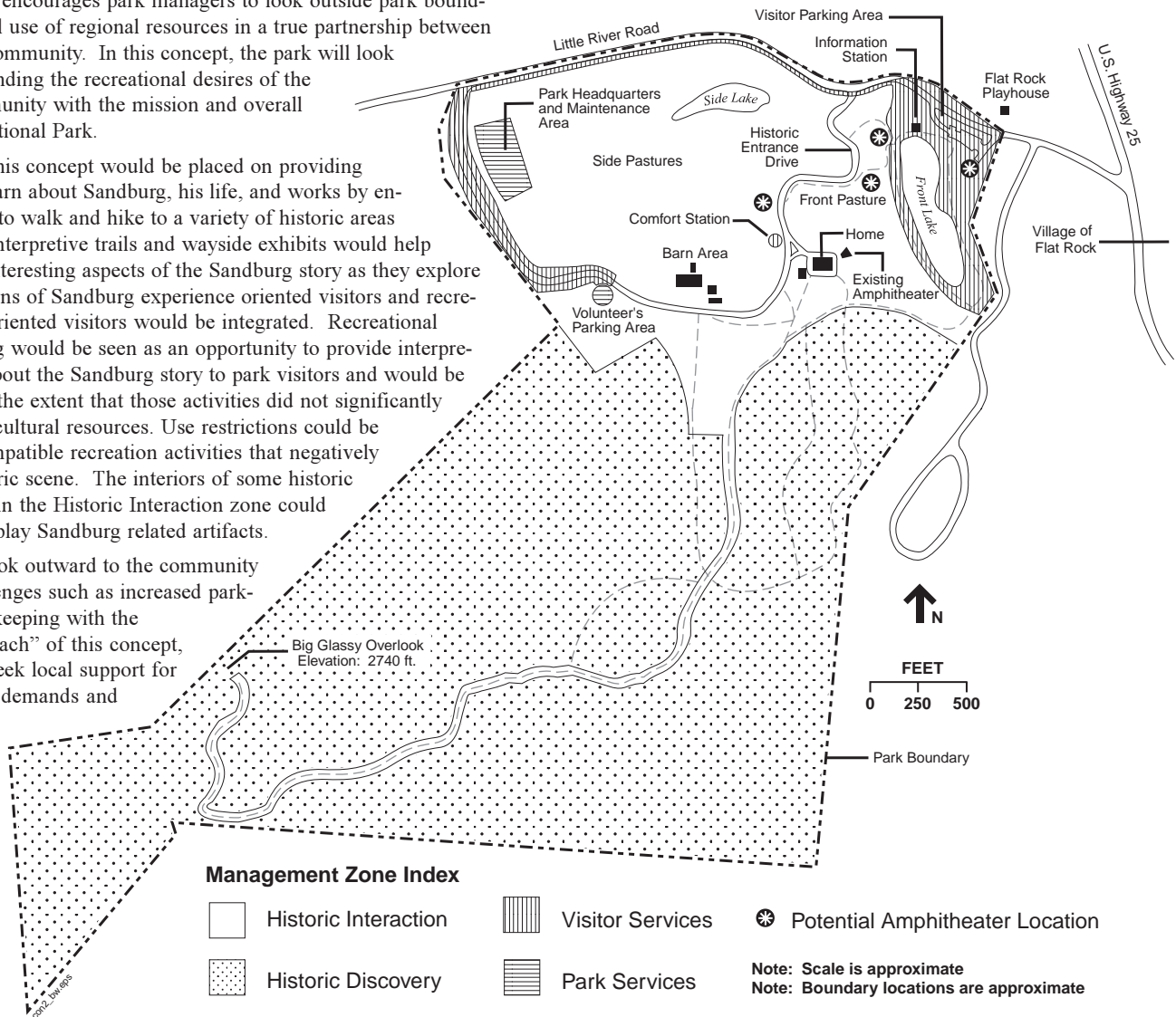
Conceptual Idea 2

General Concept: Paths of discovery

Conceptual Idea 2 encourages park managers to look outside park boundaries and make full use of regional resources in a true partnership between the park and the community. In this concept, the park will look strategically at blending the recreational desires of the surrounding community with the mission and overall function of the National Park.

The emphasis of this concept would be placed on providing opportunities to learn about Sandburg, his life, and works by encouraging visitors to walk and hike to a variety of historic areas within the park. Interpretive trails and wayside exhibits would help visitors discover interesting aspects of the Sandburg story as they explore the site. Use patterns of Sandburg experience oriented visitors and recreation experience oriented visitors would be integrated. Recreational walking and hiking would be seen as an opportunity to provide interpretive information about the Sandburg story to park visitors and would be accommodated to the extent that those activities did not significantly impact the park's cultural resources. Use restrictions could be placed on non-compatible recreation activities that negatively impacted the historic scene. The interiors of some historic structures located in the Historic Interaction zone could be modified to display Sandburg related artifacts.

The park would look outward to the community when facing challenges such as increased parking pressures. In keeping with the "partnership approach" of this concept, managers would seek local support for additional parking demands and look toward community leaders to present creative off-site parking opportunities that may mutually benefit the park and the Village of Flat Rock.



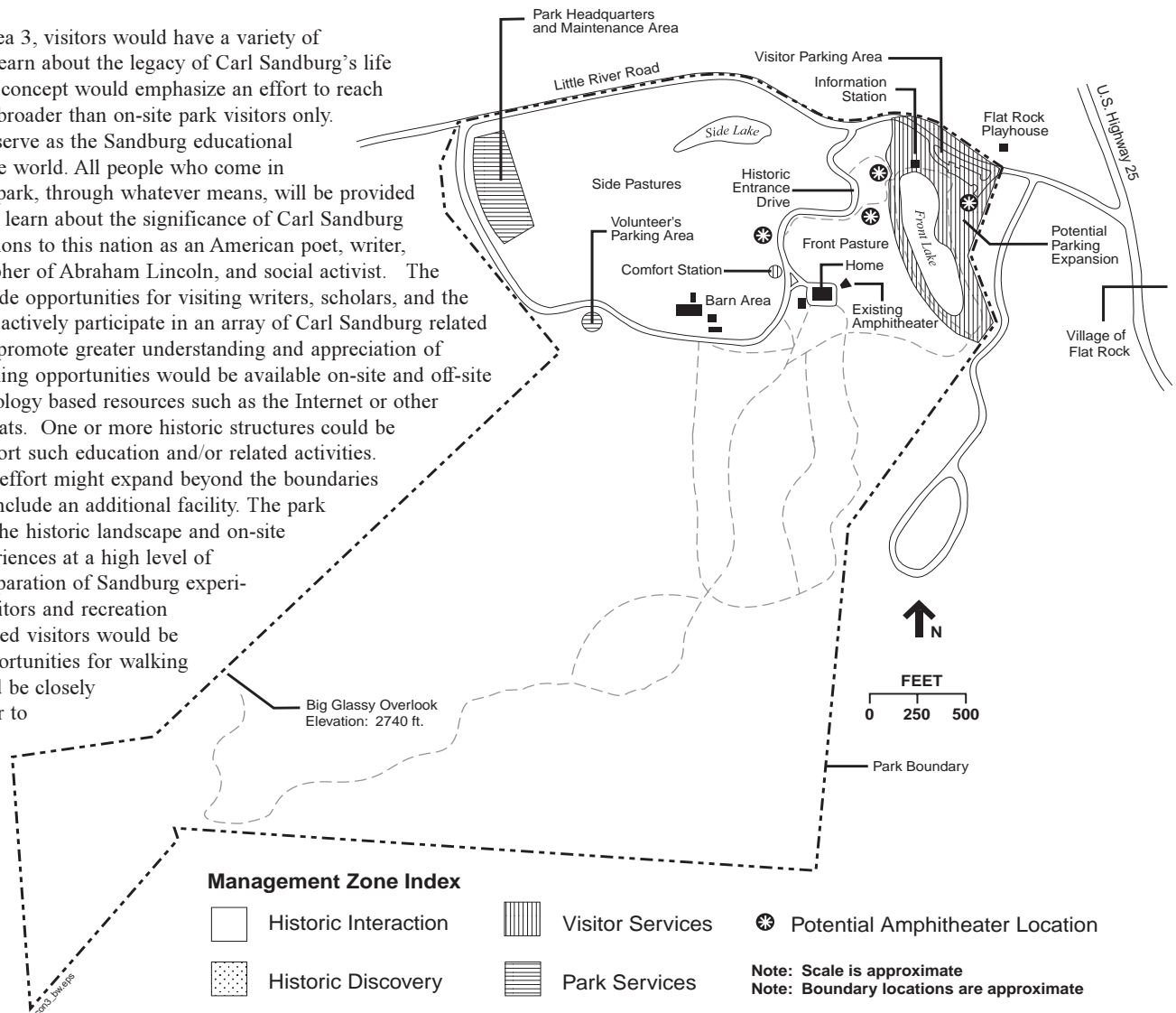
Details:

- Walking trail network enlarged. Additional amenities such as benches and interpretive waysides could be placed on selected trails in the Historic Interaction and Visitor Services Zone for the convenience of trail users.
- New pedestrian pathway constructed between historic fence line and shoulder of Little River Road. Pedestrian pathway may include multiple additional pedestrian access point and opportunity for interpretive stations along its route.
- The existing temporary amphitheater would be relocated to a site farther from the house than its current location. The design of the new amphitheater facility would be similar in style and scale to the existing facility. Electricity would be provided, but high tech accessories such as a permanent sound and lighting system would not.
- The existing temporary trailer restroom facility would be replaced by a sensitively designed permanent facility near the current location. The new facility would make as little impression on the historic scene as possible.
- A boundary expansion would be requested to better manage and protect the summit of Big Glassy Overlook and adjoining areas as well as to create opportunities for additional off-site parking.
- An interior of one or more historic structures could be modified to display historic artifacts in an environmentally controlled setting.
- The number of on-site parking spaces would not increase. Opportunities would be sought outside of the historic boundary of Connemara to address the need for additional parking.

Conceptual Idea 3

General Concept: Sandburg Center

In Conceptual Idea 3, visitors would have a variety of opportunities to learn about the legacy of Carl Sandburg's life and works. This concept would emphasize an effort to reach audiences much broader than on-site park visitors only. The park would serve as the Sandburg educational focal point for the world. All people who come in contact with the park, through whatever means, will be provided an opportunity to learn about the significance of Carl Sandburg and his contributions to this nation as an American poet, writer, historian, biographer of Abraham Lincoln, and social activist. The park would provide opportunities for visiting writers, scholars, and the general public to actively participate in an array of Carl Sandburg related experiences that promote greater understanding and appreciation of Sandburg. Learning opportunities would be available on-site and off-site using high technology based resources such as the Internet or other mass media formats. One or more historic structures could be modified to support such education and/or related activities. This educational effort might expand beyond the boundaries of the park and include an additional facility. The park would maintain the historic landscape and on-site interpretive experiences at a high level of integrity. The separation of Sandburg experience oriented visitors and recreation experience oriented visitors would be encouraged. Opportunities for walking and hiking would be closely regulated in order to minimize user conflicts.



Details:

- This concept would be implemented in two phases. Phase one would focus on establishing an educational focus through various interpretive methods and park facilities. Phase two would be implemented, if appropriate, after the educational efforts are well established within the park and could expand to include facilities outside the historic boundary of Connemara.
- The existing temporary amphitheater would be relocated to a site farther from the house than its current location. The design of the new amphitheater facility would be similar in style and scale to the existing facility but may include more sophisticated accessories such as lighting and sound systems that enhance its utility as a space for performances and lectures.
- The existing temporary trailer restroom facility would be replaced by a sensitively designed permanent facility near the current location. The new facility would make as little impression on the historic scene as possible.
- In phase one, the number of on-site parking spaces would be increased by expanding the existing bus parking area to the southeast.
- One or more historic structures could be modified during phase one to display historic artifacts in an environmentally controlled setting and/or provide more interpretive/educational opportunities. Phase two developments may include a modern visitors/educational center and parking area outside the existing boundary of the park if appropriate.
- A boundary expansion would be requested to better manage and protect the summit of Big Glassy Overlook and adjoining areas and potentially expand Sandburg Center facilities to areas outside the park.
- Imposing use restrictions on visitors could control the impacts of recreation use.
- This concept would require a high level of public/private partnering for complete success.



CONCEPT PRESENTATION PUBLIC MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999 - two sessions

Meeting Format:

Each meeting will include a presentation of three concepts, an opportunity for people to make formal statements, and a question and answer period with the planning team.

Location:

Henderson County Public Library, 301 North Washington Street, Hendersonville NC

Times:

2:00pm and 7:00pm

Superintendent
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site
1928 Little River Road
Flat Rock NC 28731

